

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 26, 1969

Dear Colleague:

In about two weeks I plan to introduce a bill "to protect civilian employees of the Executive Branch of the United States Government in the enjoyment of their Constitutional rights and to prevent unwarranted governmental invasions of their privacy." This is the same bill that Senator Sam J. Ervin introduced January 31 (S.782) and is identical to S.1035, which the Senate passed during the 90th Congress.

The purpose and background of this measure is detailed in Senate Report 534 of the 90th Congress. Basically, it is intended to prohibit indiscriminate requirements that employees, and in several instances applicants for government employment, disclose their race, religion or national origin; that they attend government-sponsored meetings or lectures or participate in outside activities unrelated to their employment; that they report on their outside activities or undertakings unrelated to their work; that they submit to questioning about their religion, personal relationships, or sexual attitudes through interviews, psychological tests, or polygraphs; or that they support political candidates or attend political meetings.

The bill also makes it illegal to coerce an employee to buy U. S. Bonds or to make charitable contributions, or to require him to disclose his own personal assets, liabilities, or expenditures, or those of any member of his family unless in the case of certain specified groups of employees when such information would tend to reveal a conflict of interest.

It provides a right to have counsel or other person present, if the employee wishes, at any interview which may lead to disciplinary proceedings. It accords the right to a civil action in a Federal Court for violations of the Act, and it establishes a Board of Employees' Rights to receive and conduct hearings and complaints of violation.

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While this and similar versions have already been introduced in the House this session, Senator Ervin and I would like to obtain as many cosponsors on this bill as possible. If you would like to join with me in sponsoring this proposal, please call Barbara Fletcher or Allan Markham of my staff (Extension 2515).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nick Galifianakis".

Nick Galifianakis